



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mt. Baldy Firefighting & Rescue Equipment Recovered

Date/Time: Friday, March 18, 2005, 6:00 p.m.

Location: 200 block of All View, Banning

Suspect 1: Aaron Michael Hook, 23 yoa, Banning

Synopsis: On 3-18-05, Banning Police Officers responded to a suspicious person call behind the Smart & Final at 2971 W. Ramsey St., in Banning. The subject was arrested for riding a stolen motorcycle. During the course of the investigation, the subject told officers where they could locate stolen fire equipment. Upon search of a residence located on the 200 block of All View, officers located several of the stolen items and called the San Bernardino County Fire Investigators to the scene to assist in the investigation.

Assistant Fire Marshal Phil Gadsby and Investigator Bob Mendez identified approximately \$39,000 worth of firefighting and rescue equipment stolen from the Mt. Baldy Fire Station on 12-31-04.

On 12-31-04, an estimated \$43,000 worth of firefighting and rescue equipment was stolen from the Mt. Baldy Fire Station, including extrication and rescue equipment, generators, computers, etc. Mt. Baldy is a volunteer Fire Station and is reliant upon donations for such vital equipment.

On 01-04-05, the Board of Supervisors approved Second District Supervisor Paul Biane's request for \$43,000 in contingency funds to replace the vital rescue equipment. Mt. Baldy is a volunteer fire station reliant upon donations and fundraising for firefighting equipment.

"I am deeply grateful for the hard work of the Banning Police Department in recovering the equipment. The residents of Mt. Baldy are thankful as well," said Supervisor Biane.

In addition, Mt. Baldy residents raised \$5,000 for a reward, which was matched by Supervisor Paul Biane, for information leading up to the recovery of the property and the arrest of the suspects.

"Public safety continues to be my top priority throughout my district. I will see to it that the surplus equipment is used in other areas of need," concluded Supervisor Biane.

Mr. Hook was booked into the Banning Correctional Facility on numerous charges. Approximately \$4,000 worth of equipment is still outstanding. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding the burglary is urged to call the San Bernardino County Fire Department at (909) 356-3805 or We-Tip at 1-800-78CRIME.

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